

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants would like to express appreciation for the courtesies extended by Examiner Tran to Applicants' representative during the interview conducted on February 10, 2005. (Hereinafter the "Interview"). The substance of the interview is incorporated into the remarks below and constitutes Applicants' record of the interview.

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claim 42 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. Claims 2, 6-7, 16, 18, 32, and 37-41 have been withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found, for example, on page 6, lines 19-21, of the specification. No new matter has been added. After entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 8-15, 17, 19-31, 33-36 and 43 will remain pending in the patent application.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 as the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not present any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search as the amendments merely amplify issues discussed throughout the prosecution; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of this Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-15, 17, 19-31, 33-36, and 42-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. In response, and as agreed upon during the Interview, Applicants have amended claim 1 to remove the recitation "a layer of material defining said at least two channels comprises a material, which remains substantially unchanged during drawing said preform body," and have canceled claim 42 to obviate this rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-5, 8-15, 17, 19-31, 33-36, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph are respectfully requested.

The Examiner noted on page 7, paragraph 19 of the Office Action that the withdrawn prior art rejections could be reinstated if claim 1 was amended to remove the above mentioned recitation. In response, claim 1 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner during the Interview in order to overcome the prior art rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Anderson *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,922,591), 35 U.S.C §102(b) based on Beattie (U.S. Pat. No. 5,843,767), 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Jansen (U.S. Pat. No. 5,173,097), 35 U.S.C. §102(b)/103(a) based on Anderson, 35 U.S.C §102(b)/103(a)

based on Beattie, and 35 U.S.C. §102(b)/103(a) based on Jansen, as set forth in the Office Action dated July 14, 2004. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3-5, 8-15, 17, 19-31, 33-36, and 43 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants have addressed all the Examiner's rejections and objections and respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP



ROBERT C. PEREZ

Reg. No. 39328

Tel. No. 703.905.2159

Fax No. 703.905.2500

CHRISTOPHE F. LAIR

Reg. No. 54248

Tel. No. 703.905.2097

Fax No. 703.905.2500

RCP/CFL
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000